

# Not a Half-Life for NACA Reports

by Jean Anderson

NACA documents written during the 1915 - 1958 period are still heavily used and referenced. Contrary to the theory that technical reports tend to be obsolete after ten years, the NACA collection finds daily usage in the California Institute of Technology Aeronautics Library. Much demand comes from outside as well as faculty and student use, particularly in development of newer technologies. The same basic data used to develop aircraft is now used for design of hang gliders, sailplanes, hydrofoil sail boats and air cushioned vehicles. A report on airfoil data (NACA Report 824) has been published in book form and is now available in paperback.

The following chart is an explanation of the NACA Series. The TMs are translations

of reports and papers. Some of the TNs and some of the RMs were later published as reports.

The Aeronautics Library is currently negotiating with a publisher to publish the entire collection on microfiche. A preliminary survey has shown worldwide interest in this project. The entire collection consists of about 12,000 documents. We will be glad to furnish further information to any library interested in the acquisition of this collection on microfiche.

1. Abbott, Ira H. and Albert E. von Doenhoff, *Theory of Wing Sections* Dover 1959.
2. Index of NACA Technical Publications, June, 1955 - June, 1956 p.iii.

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EXPLANATORY CHART OF NACA PUBLICATIONS SERIES DESIGNATIONS

PUBLICATIONS SERIES	SYMBOL	CURRENTLY ISSUED	NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY	NUMBER BASED ON LABORATORY** OF ORIGIN	NUMBER BASED ON DATE OF ISSUE- YEAR* MONTH# DAY†	EXAMPLE WITH EXPLANATION
Reports	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	Report 1004 - 1004th Report issued.
Research Memorandums	RM	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	RM 19K03a - Research Memorandum written by Langley Laboratory Personnel in 1949 and issued on November 3rd, being the second RM released on that date.
Technical Memorandums	TM	Yes	Yes	No	No	TM 1313 - 1313th Technical Memorandum issued.
Technical Notes	TN	Yes	Yes	No	No	TN 2432 - 2432nd Technical Note issued.
Wartime Reports	WR	No	Yes	Yes	No	WR A-6 - 6th Wartime Report issued that was based on Ames Laboratory research. Reported earlier to a limited audience and was reprinted.
Adv. Conf. Reports	ACR	No	No	Yes, after March, 1944##	Yes, after April, 1943##	ACR E4D19 - Advance Confidential Report written by Lewis Laboratory personnel in 1944 and issued on April 19th.
Adv. Rest'd. Reports	ARR	No	No	Yes, after March, 1944##	Yes, after April, 1943##	ARR L4K22b - Advance Restricted Report written by Langley Laboratory personnel in 1941 and issued on November 22nd, being the 3rd ARR issued on that date.
Conf. Bulletins	CB	No	No	Yes, after March, 1944##	Yes, after April, 1943##	CB E5J11 - Confidential Bulletin written by Lewis Laboratory personnel in 1945 and issued October 11th.
Memorandum Reports	MR	No	No	Yes, after October, 1944##	Yes, after October, 1944##	MR A4L12 - Memorandum Report written by Ames Laboratory personnel in 1944 and issued on December 12th.
Restricted Bulletins	RB	No	No	Yes, after March, 1944##	Yes, after April, 1943##	RB E6D22 - Restricted Bulletin written by Lewis Laboratory personnel in 1946 and issued on April 22nd.
Aircraft Circulars	AC	No	Yes	No	No	AC 150 - 150th Aircraft Circular issued.

## Symbol and date only used prior to date mentioned.

\*\*A - Ames  
E - Lewis  
L - Langley

\* 5 - 1945  
6 - 1946  
7 - 1947  
8 - 1948  
9 - 1949

# A - January  
B - February  
C - March  
D - April  
E - May  
F - June

G - July  
H - August  
I - September  
J - October  
K - November  
L - December

## 01  
02  
03 . . etc. to 31 followed by  
a - 2nd document issued that date  
b - 3rd document issued that date